

Fiction

Social Studies

Language Arts



Author: Mike Lupica

Publisher: Puffin Books, 2006

Readability Level: 5.5

Interest Level: 6-8

Cultural Connections: Cuban

Summary: This is the story of a 12-year Cuban-American boy named Michael. He has always dreamed of playing in Yankee Stadium, and is about to get his chance if his little league baseball team can get to the championships. Things get complicated when another coach challenges his age. Will Michael be able to get his documents in time to play the big game?

Reading Activity

Choose 6 different baseball terms from the story as vocabulary words. After explaining the definitions of the words write the words on index cards and place them in a paper bag. Have pairs of students reach into the bag and pull out a word. They need to act out the definition of the word in order to get the remaining students to guess their vocabulary word.

Literacy Activity

Tell the students about the history of Cuba and what the government is like there. Together compare and contrast the differences between the United States and Cuba. Afterwards have the students write a response about why they think that Michael's parents chose to come to America.

Common Core State Standards:

RL.4.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.

RL.4.9. Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

W.4.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.